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SENATE MEMORIAL 35

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Carroll H. Leavell

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO
LOCATE THE MODERN PIT FACILITY NEAR THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT
PLANT IN EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, the production, manufacture, rehabilitation and
maintenance of plutonium triggers for the United States nuclear
weapons stockpile is vital to the national security of the
United States; and**

**WHEREAS, the national nuclear posture review identified
the lack of a modern pit facility as a "critical readiness
gap", which must be filled to ensure the viability of the
United States nuclear weapons stockpile deterrent; and**

**WHEREAS, the national nuclear security administration, a
division of the United States department of energy, has
initiated an environmental impact statement to determine the**

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1 need and location for a modern pit facility, and the waste
2 isolation pilot plant site has been identified as one of five
3 final candidate sites; and

4 WHEREAS, WIPP, the waste isolation pilot plant, was
5 created by the federal government to dispose of all defense-
6 related transuranic waste resulting from the nation's nuclear
7 weapons program and, thereby, makes a continued nuclear weapons
8 program possible by providing a safe and secure site for final
9 waste disposition; and

10 WHEREAS, the goal to minimize the transportation of
11 plutonium in its various forms, including wastes, across the
12 nation's highways is in the nation's best interest; and

13 WHEREAS, certain geographical, geological, environmental
14 and institutional considerations, including the proximity to
15 the WIPP site and the United States department of energy
16 Carlsbad field office, strongly suggest that the land withdrawn
17 for WIPP is the appropriate site for locating such modern pit
18 facility; and

19 WHEREAS, the great state of New Mexico has long focused
20 its resources and energy toward enhancing our nation's security
21 through its history of nuclear energy and weapons development;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the national nuclear safety administration
24 be requested to locate the modern pit facility in southeast New
25 Mexico near Carlsbad; and

